

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00208 111443Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 PER-01 SS-15
MMO-01 ABF-01 /038 W
-----111504Z 005361 /44
R 111412Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1266
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0208

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AFSP, OGEN
SUBJECT: CONSULAR STAFFING

REF: STATE 04175

1. TWO TDY CONSULAR OFFICERS (STAPLETON AND METRINKO) PRESENTLY IN DAMASCUS. PERMANENT DAMASCUS CONSULAR OFFICER SCHEDULED RETURN FROM HOME LEAVE JANUARY 13. IT IS ASSUMED ANY RESMPTION CONSULAR SERVICES IN BEIRUT WILL EFFECT REDUCTION DAMASCUS WORKLOAD. SINCE IV SERVICES FOR LEBANESE EXPECTED REMAIN DAMASCUS FOR AT LEAST SEVERAL MONTHS, POST WILL CONTINUE REQUIRE ASSISTANCE FOR OUR ONE REGULAR CONSULAR OFFICER DURING THAT TIME. WE BELIEVE THAT IF DEPARTMENT APPROVES PROPOSALS IN BEIRUT 008, DAMASCUS CAN MEET REMAINING WORKLOAD WITH ON REGULAR AND ONE TDY CONSULAR OFFICER. METRINKO'S TDY ORDERS EXTEND UNTIL PARIL. THEREFORE, SEE NO DIFFICULTY IN STAPLETON AND RUSSELL RETURN BEIRUT.

2. DURING LAST SEVERAL WEEKS DAMASCUS HAS NOTED SOME DECLINE BOTH IV AND NIV APPLICATIONS. BELIEVE THIS DUE NOT ONLY IMPROVED SECURITY STUATION IN LEBANON BUT ALSO TO TRWVITIONAL PREFERENCE OF APPLI- CANTS TO TRAVEL DURING WARMER WEATHER AND OCCASIONAL
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DIFFICULTIES IN REACHING DAMASCUS FROM LEBANON CAUSED BY SNOW AND ICE ON MOUNTAINS RAODS. EVEN SO, DECEMBER 1976 NIV WORKLOAD 325 PERCENT ABOVE DECEMBER 1975 AND IV WORKLOAD, 461 CASES, STILL SUBSTANTIALY HIGHER THAN AVERAGE PRE-WAR BEIRUT IV DEMAND.

3. FOUR FSL TDYERS FROM BEIRUT ARE WORKING PRIMARILY

ON IVS. AS LONG AS IV WORK FROM BEIRUT HERE, EXPECT WE
WILL NEED THESE FOUR POSITIONS.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC00208
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770010-0476
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770164/aaaacdvr.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 031f2fdb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 4175
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3627926
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULAR STAFFING
TAGS: AFSP, OGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/031f2fdb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009